

where he is now retiring from after 34 years of excellent service. He became Director of the Department in 1989.

Bill has achieved many successes during his time as Director—not only for the Riverside County Department of Veterans but for the entire community of Riverside. He founded the Interagency Coalition on Homeless Veterans and hosted ten annual Homeless Veterans Care Fairs to publicize the plight of homelessness. Bill remains active as an advocate for homeless veterans, serving on the City's Homeless Task Force, the FEMA Local Board, and advocating with the JPA at March Air Force Base for a permanent facility for U.S. vets, and homeless veterans service provider. Bill also founded the Riverside National Cemetery's (RNC) Memorial Honor Detail, an all-volunteer organization providing military honors for veteran burials at RNC. Bill founded Vets Express, a free transportation service for veterans traveling from Blythe and the Coachella Valley to the VA Medical Center in Loma Linda. He worked to name a stretch of I-10 the Veterans' Memorial Freeway and successfully advocated for the placement of three VA Outpatient Clinics in Riverside County. Bill also founded the Annual Salute to Veterans' Parade in the City of Riverside.

Bill has worked on several memorials and monuments task forces, including the Villegas Memorial, the Riverside County Wall of Honor, the Riverside County Veterans' Memorial, and the monuments and memorials at the Riverside National Cemetery. As a member of the Veterans' Advisory Committee, he instituted the annual David Goldware Friend of the Veteran Award, the Legislative Breakfast series, and regular county-wide veterans' benefits workshops. Bill has advocated for and staged events at RNC as a way of introducing RNC to more Inland Empire residents.

Bill has also served on the GoRiverside Committee to promote the use of public transportation and he conducted the first county and state veterans' needs surveys, published the results with the help of the San Bernardino Veteran Service Officer, and distributed the surveys statewide to elected officials and veterans advocates and leaders. Bill continues to serve on the Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Committee to assist in restoration of this historic landmark in the city of Riverside and has served two four-year terms on the city of Riverside's Planning Commission.

Bill Densmore's tireless passion for veterans and community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Riverside, California. Bill has been the heart and soul of our veterans community events and I am proud to call him a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for his service and salute him as he retires.

SALUTING MAYOR DENNIS  
TRUDEAU AS HE PREPARES TO  
RETIRE

### HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, today I wish to honor and pay tribute to a faithful public servant in my 10th Congressional District of Georgia.

Dennis Trudeau has served Grovetown as mayor for over 20 years, but his service for the greater good has been a lifelong pursuit. Mayor Trudeau is a patriot who served his community, his country, and his world with distinction.

Before taking that first oath of office in 1988, he served his resident country of Canada with distinction in uniform. Trudeau grew up in Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Army as soon as he came of age. He was one of the thousand of brave men who stormed the beaches of Normandy and was even taken as a prisoner of war. Mayor Trudeau later joined the United States Army in July of 1946 and after retiring from active duty in July of 1967 worked with the U.S. Army Signal School until 1984. He is a man of courage, dedication, and strength.

It is obvious the people of Grovetown believed in Mayor Trudeau or they would not have re-elected him time and time again. In a newspaper editorial one resident wrote, "He has lent dignity and restored a sense of pride to the residents of Grovetown." As the U.S. Congressman of Georgia's Tenth District, I consider it an honor to represent this fine leader and his dear town in Washington, DC.

Mr. Trudeau, we salute you and your service and wish you the best as you embark on the next phase of your life.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I missed votes on December 11th and December 12th 2007 in order to attend the funeral of a close family member, which was held in Utah.

Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: On rollcall vote No. 1142, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1143, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1144, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1145, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1146, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1147, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1148, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1149, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1150, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1151, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1152, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1153, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1154, "aye," on rollcall vote No. 1155, "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE HAMLETT: A  
WOMAN CONTINUING TO BLAZE  
NEW TRAILS AS KEEPER OF THE  
MACE

#### HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, as a Member of Congress, I am moved by Ms. Joyce Hamlett's trust in patience, trust in truth and trust that God has planned a great path for her life. I rise to ask you to join me in recognizing the excellent service and continued professional success of Ms. Joyce Hamlett, newly appointed Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressional business begins when the Mace is set, and ends when it is lifted. There is one woman with the great responsibility to ensure that the Mace is available for this historical purpose. And, in times of emergency, one woman guards the Mace and preserves its protection.

Ms. Joyce Hamlett is the first African American woman to serve as the Keeper of the Mace. Her moral upbringing prepared her for this honorable position. Ms. Hamlett was raised by her grandfather in a church community that fostered the importance of honesty and faith. Indeed, Ms. Hamlett's strong heritage has served as the guiding force throughout her career on Capitol Hill.

In the early 1980s, Ms. Hamlett departed Broadway, North Carolina and began her successful professional journey alongside her mother, Betty Pearson, at the Capitol Café. Within five years, Ms. Hamlett rose to cook for lawmakers upstairs in the Capitol Hill restaurant.

Her respectable interaction with lawmakers continued when she went on to serve as elevator operator under the Architect of the Capitol. During that time, she formed long-lasting friendships with many Members of Congress.

In the early 1990s, Ms. Hamlett interviewed for the position of chamber security, and soon after began to firmly enforce House rules on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives. As chamber security, she was well-known as one who worked hard to safeguard the principles and rich tradition of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Because of her excellent service, Ms. Hamlett was promoted to her current position as Keeper of the Mace. Ms. Hamlett is not only Keeper of the Mace, but she is also keeper of a strong moral foundation and keeper of the wisdom and principle represented by the Mace's solid-silver eagle.

Madam Speaker and Members of Congress, I congratulate Ms. Joyce Hamlett, a woman that continues to blaze new trails with distinction as Assistant Sergeant of Arms for the U.S. House of Representatives.

THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES  
AND RUSSIA

#### HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns about the economic relationship between the U.S. and Russia, and to once again call on the Bush Administration to exert pressure on Russia to ratify its Bilateral Investment Treaty with the U.S.

In October I chaired a hearing in the Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology Subcommittee on the U.S.-Russia economic relationship as it relates to the financial losses U.S. shareholders suffered as a result of the dissolution of the Yukos Oil Company. During the 1990s, Yukos was not only the largest private company in Russia, it was also a model of corporate governance that set an early example for other Russian companies entering the global market. Its chairman, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, was